



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture  
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE  
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## CROP PRODUCTION – OCTOBER 2016

### COLORADO HIGHLIGHTS

Based on October 1 conditions, **corn** production in Colorado is forecast at 164.2 million bushels, up 22 percent from last year's 134.90 million bushels, according to the October 1 Agricultural Yield Survey conducted by the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. The 1.20 million acres expected to be harvested for grain this year are up 90,000 acres from the September forecast and 240,000 acres above the 950,000 acres harvested a year ago. Corn yield is estimated at 138.0 bushels per acre, down 2.0 bushels from the September 1 forecast and 4.0 bushels below last year's final yield. As of October 2, Colorado's corn crop condition was rated 1 percent very poor, 3 percent poor, 22 percent fair, 58 percent good, and 16 percent excellent. Corn harvested for grain was 9 percent complete, compared with 10 percent last year and the 5-year average of 13 percent.

**Sorghum** production in 2016 is forecast at 20.67 million bushels, down 6 percent from the 22.00 million bushels harvested last year. Growers expect to harvest 390,000 acres this year, up 50,000 acres from the September forecast but down from the 400,000 acres harvested last year. Average yield is forecast at 53.0 bushels per acre, up 7.0 bushels from the September 1 forecast but down 2.0 bushels from last year. As of October 2, Colorado's sorghum crop condition was rated 5 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 58 percent good, and 7 percent excellent. Sorghum harvested for grain was estimated at 6 percent complete, compared with 10 percent last year and the 5-year average of 7 percent.

The initial forecast of **all sunflower** production is estimated at 95.20 million pounds, up 12 percent from the 2015 crop of 85.20 million pounds. All sunflower yield is expected to average 1,400 pounds per acre, an increase of 165 pounds from last year. Harvested area is estimated at 68,000 acres, down from the 69,000 acres harvested last year. As of October 2, Colorado's sunflower crop condition was rated 3 percent poor, 26 percent fair, 63 percent good, and 8 percent excellent.

**Alfalfa hay** production in Colorado is forecast at 2.85 million tons, down from the 2.87 million tons produced in 2015. Colorado farmers and ranchers expect to harvest 750,000 acres of alfalfa hay this year, up 50,000 acres from 2015. Alfalfa hay yield is expected to average 3.80 tons per acre, compared with last year's yield of 4.10 tons per acre and the August 1 forecast of 3.80 tons per acre. Producers expect to harvest 750,000 acres of **other hay** in 2016, unchanged from last year. Other hay production is estimated at 1.50 million tons, up 5 percent from the 1.43 million tons a year ago. Other hay yield is expected to average 2.00 tons per acre, compared with last year's yield of 1.90 tons per acre and the August 1 forecast of 1.90 tons per acre.

**Sugarbeet** production in Colorado is forecast at 954,000 tons, down slightly from the 958,000 tons produced in 2015. Growers expect to harvest 27,500 acres this year, compared with 27,300 a year ago. Yields are expected to average 34.7 tons per acre, up 0.1 tons per acre from the September 1 forecast but down from last year's yield of 35.1 tons per acre. As of October 2, Colorado's sugarbeet crop condition was rated 1 percent poor, 15 percent fair, 70 percent good, and 14 percent excellent. Harvest of sugarbeets was estimated at 8 percent complete, compared with 34 percent last year and the 5-year average of 22 percent.

**Dry bean** production for 2016 is forecast at 774,000 hundredweight, down 9 percent from the 846,000 hundredweight produced a year earlier. Yields are expected to average 1,800 pounds per acre, down 200 pounds per acre from the August 1 forecast and down from 1,820 pounds per acre last year. Growers expect to harvest 43,000 acres this year, down 3,500 acres from the 46,500 acres harvested last year. As of October 2, Colorado's dry bean crop condition was rated 2 percent poor, 31 percent fair, 59 percent good, and 8 percent excellent. Dry bean harvest was estimated to be 56 percent complete, compared to 42 percent last year and the 5-year average of 55 percent.

## UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

**Corn** production is forecast at 15.1 billion bushels, up 11 percent from last year but down slightly from the September forecast. Based on conditions as of October 1, yields are expected to average 173.4 bushels per acre, down 1 bushel from the September forecast but up 5 bushels from 2015. If realized, this will be the highest yield and production on record for the United States. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 86.8 million acres, up slightly from the September forecast and up 8 percent from 2015. Acreage updates were made in several States following a thorough review of all available data.

**Sorghum** production is forecast at 467 million bushels, down 4 percent from last month and down 22 percent from last year. Acreage updates were made in several States following a thorough review of all available data. Planted area, at 6.76 million acres, is down 6 percent from the previous estimate and down 20 percent from last year. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 6.05 million acres, down 6 percent from the September forecast and down 23 percent from 2015. Based on October 1 conditions, yield is forecast at a 77.2 bushels per acre, up 1.5 bushels from last month and up 1.2 bushels from last year. If realized, this will be the highest yield on record for the United States. A record high yield is expected in Kansas.

**Sunflower** production forecast for 2016 is 2.46 billion pounds, down 16 percent from 2015. Area planted, at 1.60 million acres, is down 3 percent from the June estimate and down 14 percent from last year. Sunflower growers expect to harvest 1.54 million acres, down 3 percent from June and down 14 percent from the 2015 acreage. Planted area for the Nation is the fourth lowest on record since 1976, and harvested area will also be the fourth lowest since 1976, if realized. The October yield forecast, at 1,596 pounds per acre, is 29 pounds lower than last year's record high yield and will be the second highest yield for the Nation, if realized.

Production of **alfalfa and alfalfa mixture dry hay** for 2016 is forecast at 62.8 million tons, up 7 percent from 2015. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 3.48 tons per acre, up 0.16 ton from last year. Harvested area is forecast at 18.1 million acres, unchanged from the August forecast but up 2 percent from 2015.

Production of **other hay** is forecast at 78.8 million tons, up 4 percent from 2015. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 2.07 tons per acre, up 0.01 ton from last year. If realized, the 2016 average yield will be a record high for the United States and production will be the third highest on record behind only 2004 and 2003. Harvested area is forecast at 38.1 million acres, unchanged from the August forecast but up 4 percent from 2015.

**Sugarbeet** production for the 2016 crop year is forecast at 36.3 million tons, up 1 percent from the previous forecast and up 3 percent from last year. Producers expect to harvest 1.14 million acres, down slightly from the previous forecast and last year. Expected yield is forecast at 31.9 tons per acre, an increase of 0.6 ton from the previous forecast and an increase of 1.0 ton from last year.

**Dry edible bean** production is forecast at 27.8 million cwt for 2016, down 8 percent from last year. Planted area is estimated at 1.66 million acres, down 6 percent from 2015. Harvested area is forecast at 1.57 million acres, 8 percent below the previous year. The average United States yield is forecast at 1,772 pounds per acre, an increase of 12 pounds from 2015.

For a full copy of the *Crop Production* report please visit [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov).